



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY  
HEATHER TASKER, BRIDGET KELLY  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**UNITED STATES EXTRADITES DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COLONEL  
CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING MORE THAN 3,000 POUNDS  
OF COCAINE DESTINED FOR UNITED STATES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the extradition and arraignment of LIDIO ARTURO NIN TERRERO ("TERRERO") and TIRSO CUEVAS NIN ("NIN") for their roles in a Dominican Republic-based narcotics-trafficking organization responsible for importing ton-quantities of cocaine into the United States. TERRERO and NIN were arrested on December 18, 2004 in the Dominican Republic while driving a truck containing approximately 1,387 kilograms (or 3,051 pounds) of cocaine destined for the United States. TERRERO, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Dominican National Police, was wearing his police uniform and carrying his service weapon at the time of his arrest. Photographs of the cocaine and the truck that were seized by the Dominican authorities are attached hereto.

According to a five-count Indictment filed in Manhattan federal court, TERRERO and NIN were members of a cocaine-trafficking organization headed by QUIRINO ERNESTO PAULINO CASTILLO ("PAULINO CASTILLO"). According to the Indictment, PAULINO CASTILLO's organization received ton-quantities of South American cocaine in the Dominican Republic and then shipped the cocaine to the United States. The organization allegedly used a variety of routes and methods to send the cocaine from the Dominican Republic and Haiti to Puerto Rico and then ultimately to the United States mainland, including to New York City. After the drugs were received and distributed in the United States, including in New York City, the drug proceeds were collected and repatriated back to the Dominican Republic by, among other means, wire transferring the proceeds to various bank accounts in the Dominican Republic for delivery to the owners of the drugs, including PAULINO CASTILLO, it was charged.

The Indictment charged PAULINO CASTILLO, TERRERO, NIN

and fourteen other individuals with violations of United States narcotics and money-laundering laws. PAULINO CASTILLO was extradited to the Southern District of New York on February 19, 2005.

If convicted, both NIN and TERRERO face a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. TERRERO and NIN will appear in Courtroom 5A, 500 Pearl Street, Manhattan federal court, later this afternoon to be arraigned on the charges.

The successful extraditions announced today were the result of a joint investigation involving cooperation between the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the Dominican Government's National Directorate for Drug Control ("DNCD").

Mr. GARCIA praised the cooperative investigative efforts of the DEA's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (comprised of DEA agents, New York City Police Department Detectives and New York State Police Investigators), the DEA's Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Office, and the DNCD.

The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit. Assistant United States Attorney JOHN J. O'DONNELL is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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